

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 208939
ORIGIN SS-25

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NEA: MR. DRAPER
S/S: MR. TARNOFF
NSC:OCKSENBERG(IN SUB)
EUR: MR. VINE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208939

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY(OMISSION OF CLEARANCES)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON

REF: BANGKOK 23372 (NOTAL)

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PAGE 02 STATE 208939

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON HOPES TO MAKE AN ASIAN TRIP DURING THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER TIME FRAME AND THAT HIS FORMER AIDE, COLONEL JACK BRENNAN, HAS CONTACTED A NUMBER OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, PRIMARILY THROUGH THEIR EMBASSIES HERE, TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES. NIXON WOULD REPORTEDLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVENTEEN OTHER PERSONS, INCLUDING FOURTEEN SECURITY PERSONNEL. HE WOULD LIKE TO

BE "WELL RECEIVED" AND BE ABLE TO CONFER WITH HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS, NOTABLY CHIEFS OF STATE AND/OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. IN SEVERAL CASES, NIXON HAS HAD A LONG-STANDING INVITATION (E.G. IRAN, SINGAPORE, ROK; OTHERS HAVE BEEN ADDED AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE).

2. WE DO NOT HAVE A DEFINITIVE LIST OF ALL THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE APPROACHED. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY INCLUDE JAPAN, ROK, PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA PLUS IRAN. ROMANIA IS A POSSIBILITY BUT HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED. WE KNOW THAT AUSTRALIA AND THAILAND HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED.

3. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, NIXON HAS NOT FINALLY MADE UP HIS MIND WHICH COUNTRIES HE INTENDS TO VISIT AND HE MAY NOT VISIT ALL OF THESE ON THE LIST, EVEN IF PRELIMINARY APPROACHES ARE MADE. THIS COULD CAUSE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

4. IF QUERIED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS, AND ONLY IF INITIATIVE IS THEIRS, YOU MAY REPLY THAT DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A NIXON TRIP AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE FINAL DECISIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN TAKEN AS TO WHICH COUNTRIES TO VISIT ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN MADE. FURTHER, THE USG HAS NO OBJECTION TO TRIP WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS COMPLETELY PRIVATE IN NATURE.
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PAGE 03 STATE 208939

5. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN MORE PRECISION FROM COLONEL BRENNAN AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. SHOULD TRIP EVENTUATE, EMBASSIES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER APPROPRIATE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO NIXON AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. VANCE

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